GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1270
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
REJUVENATION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM
Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh;Dhindsa Shri Sukhdev Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has requested the Centre to invest the money saved on wheat imports for rejuvenating its irrigation system in view of the State`s significant contribution towards wheat procurement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Punjab has requested that the money saved on wheat imports should be used for rejuvenating the irrigation system of the State in view of its significant contribution towards wheat procurement.

(b): The Chief Minister of Punjab has requested the Centre to provide more substantial budgetary support to the State's agricultural infrastructure especially the irrigation system. As far as the lining of Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Canal and other anti-water logging measures proposed by the Chief Minister are concerned, these were examined and funding of the proposal through Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was not considered feasible. Subsequently the Chief Minister of Punjab has taken up the issue of 100% Central assistance for Rajasthan Feeder and Sirhind Feeder Canals with the Ministry of Water Resources. However, there is no scheme with Ministry of Water Resources for 100% funding of irrigation projects. Funding under AIBP is processed after receiving investment clearance from the Planning Commission as per guidelines of the Programme in force.